

Message Text

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SUBJ: EGYPTIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. EGYPTIAN PRESS GAVE PAGE 1 HEADLINE TREATMENT TO REPORTS OF MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 27 BETWEEN PRESIDENT ANWAR EL SADAT, PRIME MINISTER MAMDOUH SALEM, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION ABDUL AZIM ABOUL ATTA, AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND SUDAN AFFAIRS ABDUL AZIZ HUSSEIN. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, PRESIDENT SADAT AGREED THAT SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN INCREASING PRODUCTION OF COTTON, BEANS, SUGAR CANE, WHEAT AND MAIZE. PRESIDENT APPROVED FOLLOWING POLICY DIRECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE:

(A) INCREASE OF COTTON PRODUCTION BY 1.7 MILLION KANTARS

(B) ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

(C) INCREASE RICE EXPORTS FROM 235, 000 TONS TO 450,000 TONS.

(D) INCREASE CITRUS EXPORTS FROM 222,000 TO 350,000 TONS.

(E) INCREASE ONION EXPORTS FROM 63,00 TONS TO 110,000 TONS.

(F) ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN PRODUCTION OF BEANS.

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(G) PLANT ADDITIONAL 600,00 FEDDAN SIN HYV OF WHEAT.

2. PRESIDENT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE IN FIELD OF LAND RECLAMATION, APPROVED CONTINUATION OF POLICY OF GIVING RELCAIMED LANDS TO FARMERS AND GRADUATES OF AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, WITH AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES ALSO PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE IN UTILIZATION OF RELCAIMED LANDS.

3. RELAIMED LANDS NOT UTILIZED AS STATED ABOVE WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION WITH PROCEEDS ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN LE 15 MILLION IN 1977 BEING USED TO FINANCE HORIZONTAL EXPANSION SCHEMES COVERING 2.5 MILLION FEDDANS. ADDITIONAL LAND EXPECTED TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BY BETWEEN 2 AND 8 PERCENT.

4. AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE EGYPT EXPORTER OF PROCESSED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY YEAR 2,000.

5. FOLLOWING SPECIFIC SCHEMES ARE PLANNED IN COLLABORATION WITH ARAB AND OTHER FOREIGN CAPITAL;

(A) 24,000 FEDDANS IN NUBARIA FOR PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLE SEEDS.

(B) 15,00 FEDDANS IN WEST NUBARIA TO BE PLANTED IN CITRUS.

(C) 12,000 FEDDANS IN WEST NUBARIA WILL BE USED FOR SHEEP PRODUCTION.

(D) 132,000 FEDDANS TO BE PLANTED IN SUGAR BEETS IN CENTER OF DELTA.

(E) 18,000 FEDDANS IN AL MALAK AREA WILL BE ALLOCATED TO PRODUCTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS AND VEGETABLES.

(F) 15,000 FEDDANS IN GAAGORIA AREA FOR PRODUCTION OF CITRUS.

6. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SCHEMES WILL BE IN COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES, INCLUDING ONE COMPLEX OF 25,000 FEDDANS AT MARIUT.

7. REPORTS POINT OUT THAT EGYPT'S PRESENT WATER RESOURCES TOTAL 68 MILLION CUBIC METERS (MM3) AGAINST REQUIREMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 51 MM3. PRESENT SURPLUS OF 17 MM3 PLUS ANOTHER 9 MM3 FROM UPPOER NILE SCHEMES AVAILALE IMMEDIATELY FOR HORIZONTAL EXAPNSION. FURTHERMORE, ADVANCED METHODS OF IRRIGATION COULD SAVE MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF IRRIGATION WATER BEING USED.

8. PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY LISTENED TO REPORTS ON TILE DRAINAGE PROGRAMS AND DIRECTED THAT ATTENTION ALSO BE

DIRECTED TO VERTICAL EXPANSION SCHEMES.

9. POULTRY PRODUCTION WAS REPORTED AT 24.6 MILLION CHICKENS IN 1975 AND 43 MILLION IN 1976. PRESIDENT APPROVED GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION TO 56 MILLION IN 1977 AND 70 MILLION IN 1978.

10. PRESIDENT DIRECTED THAT PRIVATE SECTOR BE ENCOURAGED IN AGRICULTURE AND GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INCREASE PRIVATE SECTOR BREEDING CENTERS TO 5,00 IN 1980 COMPARED WITH 548 IN 1975. GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE MEAT COMPANY, WHICH RAISED 6,807 HEAD OF CATTLE IN 1976 COMPARED WITH 3,425 IN 1975 AND PLANS FOR 19,200 IN 1977 AND 50,000 IN 1980. PRESIDENT SADAT ALSO DIRECTED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO PROMOTE FISH WEALTH. END UNCLASSIFIED.

11. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: GOE STATEMENTS APPEAR TO BE VERY LONG ON TARGET AND VERY VAGUE AS TO IMPLEMENTATION, AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND NECESSARY CAPITAL, AND SPECIFIC TIME PERIODS. ASSUMING PRODUCTION AND EXPORT INCREASES ARE TARGETS FOR 1977, THEY ARE OUT OF LINE WITH RECENT TRENDS ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES BEING USED BY MISSION. FOR EXAMPLE, FAO REPORTS EGYPT'S RICE EXPORTS AS 104,300 TONS IN 1975 AND MISSION ESTIMATES LESS THAN 90,000 IN 1976.

12. LAND RECLAMATION SCHEMES ARE STALEMATED WITH JUST OVER 300,000 FEDDANS AT MARGINAL LEVEL OF PRODUCTION BECAUSE OF LACK OF CAPITAL AND NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY WITH ONLY ONE CONTRACT (AG INTERNATIONAL) SIGNED TO DATE.

13. HORIZONTAL EXPANSION SCHEMES TO RECLAIM LANDS INVOLVE 10 YEARS WORK AND INVESTMENT DOUBLE OR TRIPLE THE 750 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOLLARS PER ACRE ESTIMATED FOR THOSE MENTIONED PARA. ABOVE.

14. PRESENT AND FUTURE WATER SURPLUS IS MIXED BLESSING AS EXCESS USE OF IRRIGATION WATER IS INCREASING SOIL SALINITY, A MAJOR CONCERN TO GOE.

15. CATTLE PRODUCTION FIGURES MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 10 PRESUMABLE REFER TO DAIRY BREEDS ONLY.

16. REPORTS OF PRESENT AND PREDICTIONS OF FUTURE SUCCESS STORIES IN AGRICULTURE THUS APPEAR UNREALISTIC AND PROBABLY INTENDED LARGELY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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